



The Festival Service

Celebrating

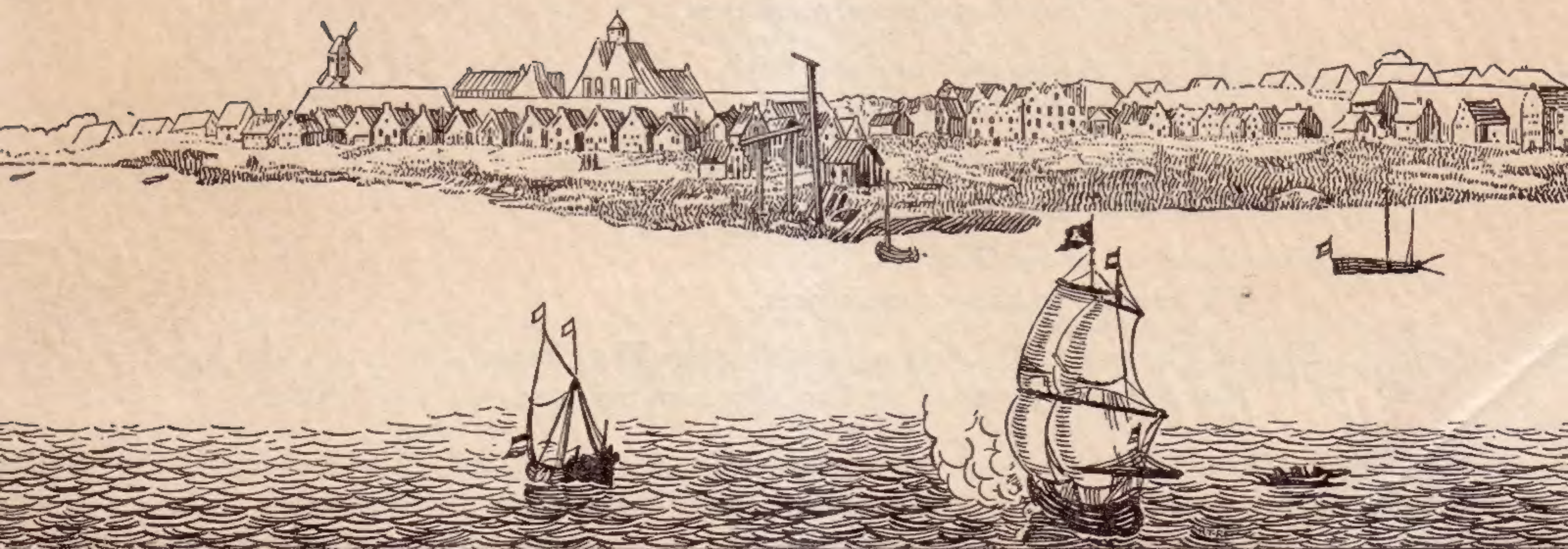
Three Hundred Years of Lutheranism in New York State

June 14, 1949

Kleinhans Music Hall

Buffalo, New York

Held in connection with
The Twenty-First Annual Convention of the
United Lutheran Synod of New York



The Festival Service

EIGHT O'CLOCK



THE PROCESSIONAL

The Triumphal March (Huldigungsmarsch).....Grieg
The Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra

Three hundred Young People, representing the Luther League of the United Lutheran Church of the Niagara Frontier, thus turning our eyes to a future of opportunity as well as to a distinguished past.

THE HYMN "The Church's One Foundation".....Aurelia

The Church's one foundation is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
She is His new Creation by water and the Word;
From Heaven He came and sought her to be His holy Bride,
With His own Blood He bought her, and for her life He died

Elect from every nation yet one o'er all the earth,
Her charter of salvation one Lord, one Faith, one Birth;
One holy Name she blesses, partakes one holy Food,
And to one hope she presses, with every grace endued.

Though with a scornful wonder, men see her sore oppressed,
By schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed;
Yet saints their watch are keeping, their cry goes up, "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song

'Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war,
She waits the consummation of peace forevermore;
Till with a vision glorious, her longing eyes are blest,
And the great Church victorious shall be the Church at rest.

THE ANTIPHON

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:
Amen.

Thou, O Lord, hast been our dwelling place in all generations:
We do acknowledge Thee to be our Lord.

Our fathers taught us Thy Word, O Lord:
Blessed be Thy Name for ever and ever.

Through days of desolation and sore trial:
Thou didst keep Thy people, O Lord.

When our fathers called unto Thee from secret places:
Then Thou didst reward them openly.

Now thank we all our God:
With hearts and hands and voices.

Cleanse Thy people, O Lord, and enable us by Thy Grace:
Blessed be the Name of the Lord, for ever and ever.

THE PRAYERS

O Lord, favorably receive the prayers of Thy Church, that, being guided and blessed through many years, delivered from adversity and strengthened by Thy might, it may serve Thee in safety and freedom, through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

O God, Who didst love the world so as to give Thine Only-begotten Son, Who didst lead unto this land faithful men and women and stalwart pastors, that Thy Church might be established and Thy people worship Thee in spirit and truth, may our gratitude issue in true dedication, that, surrounded by so great a company of witnesses, we may run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the Author and the Finisher of our faith. *Amen.*

Almighty God, Who hast given unto us a land, wherein we are free to read and hear Thy Word, to confess Thy Name, and to labor together for the extension of Thy Kingdom; Grant we beseech Thee, that the liberty vouchsafed unto us shall never be lightly regarded nor carelessly endangered. We do pray that our children and our children's children may continue in such faith and that the power of the Gospel may abound, to the blessing of the nations of the earth, and to Thine eternal glory; through Christ, Thy Son our Lord. *Amen.*

THE SYMPHONY

Symphony in D, No. 5, Op. 107 "The Reformation Symphony"
Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy

Mendelssohn originally planned this Symphony for the Tercentenary Festival of the Augsburg Confession in 1830. Its use for this occasion makes it of especial significance in the celebration of the Tercentenary of Lutheranism in New York

Although written for the great celebration in 1830, it was not officially performed until 1832, with Mendelssohn himself conducting the premiere performance in Berlin

The music of this Symphony is striking, on first hearing, because of the liturgical themes which are closely allied with the worship of the Lutheran Church. The Dresden Amen occurs in the first movement and Luther's Chorale "A Mighty Fortress" is the theme of the fourth and concluding movement.

The opening movement of the Reformation Symphony begins with a slow majestic introduction, the brasses intoning a choral-like melody that gradually develops into a unison proclamation from trumpets and trombones. Twice, the seraphic Dresden Amen is sung by pianissimo strings; then the turbulent main section of the movement ensues, the key signature having changed from D Major to D Minor. The atmosphere of conflict is momentarily cleared by a repetition of the hushed ascending sixths of the Amen, which is followed by an extended and dramatic conclusion. This movement is reputed to have been inspired by the Luther's firmness of belief and trust in God.

The second movement "Scherzo" is an exquisite affair in B Flat, with woodwind scoring that places Mendelssohn among the greatest masters of the orchestra. Only Mozart before him ever managed to produce such beautiful coloration with such an economy of means.

The Andante is in the somber key of G Minor re-establishing the tense mood of the first movement. The harmonic treatment is suggestive of certain of the more serious preludes in Bach's Well-Tempered Clavier.

An ascending cadence at the end of the low movement leads directly into the introductory measures of the finale — a severely simple statement of Luther's "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God". From here on the music grows even more brighter in color and festive in mood, concluding at last with a triumphant affirmation for full orchestra of the Luther Chorale.

While written to express the faith of the Lutheran Church, this Symphony is aptly appropriate as the description in music of the faith which was planted in New York State 300 years ago and which survived turbulent times and dire circumstances, while all the while keeping aflame a faith triumphant

The Symphony is played by the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra

Mr. Joseph Wincenc, *Guest Conductor*

THE PRESENTATION OF THE FIRST COPIES OF
"THE BEGINNINGS OF LUTHERANISM IN NEW YORK"

by the *Rev. Harry C. Kreider, Ph.D.*

to the President of the United Lutheran Church in America and
the President of the United Lutheran Synod of New York.

THE RESPONSE.....by the President of the United Lutheran Synod
of New York

THE HYMN "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" Ein' Feste Burg

1.

A mighty Fortress is our God,
A trusty Shield and Weapon;
He helps us free from ev'ry need
That hath us now o'ertaken.
The old bitter foe
Means us deadly woe;
Deep guile and great might
Are his dread arms in fight:
On earth is not his equal.

2.

With might of ours can naught be
done,
Soon were our loss effected;
But for us fights the Valiant One
Whom God Himself elected.
Ask ye, Who is this?
Jesus Christ it is,
Of Sabaoth Lord,
And there's none other God;
He holds the field for ever.

3.

Though devils all the world should fill,
All watching to devour us.
We tremble not, we fear no ill,
They cannot overpower us.
This world's prince may still
Scowl fierce as he will;
He can harm us none:
He's judged, the deed is done,
One little word o'erthrows him.

4.

The Word they still shall let remain,
Not any thanks have for it;
He's our side upon the plain
With His good gifts and Spirit.
Take they then our life,
Goods, fame, child, and wife,
When their worst is done,
They yet have nothing won:
The Kingdom ours remaineth.

THE ANTHEMS

"Now Let Every Tongue Adore Thee".....J. S. Bach

Now let every tongue adore Thee!
Let men with angels sing before Thee!
Let harps and cymbals now unite!
All Thy gates with pearls are glorious,
Where we partake thro' faith victorious,
With angels round Thy throne of light,
No mortal eye hath seen,
No mortal ear hath heard
Such wondrous things,
Therefore with joy our song shall hear
In praise to God for evermore.

Philip Nicolai

There is no greater name in Protestant Church music than that of Johann Sebastian Bach, who was himself a devout Lutheran, and who had no greater ideal than to be a fine Christian and a good father to his 20 children. He wrote more than 300 church cantatas, one of the most popular of which is "Sleepers Wake" from which this great song of praise comes.

"The Pharisee and the Publican".....Heinrich Schutz

There were two men that went up to pray in the temple:
One of them was a Pharisee, the other a Publican.
The Pharisee, he stood and prayed within himself.
And the Publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes to Heaven, smote upon his breast, and they spake thus:

(Pharisee): I give thanks to Thee, God, that I am not as other men are, unjust, extortioners, or even as this Publican. In every week I fast on two days, and of all that I possess I give the tenth part.

(Publican): God be merciful to me, a sinner. God, I am sinful, be Thou merciful to me. Have mercy on a sinner. God have mercy on me!

I say to you, this man went from thence, went down justified to his house, rather than the other. He that himself exalteth, he shall abased be. And he that humbleth himself, he shall exalted be.

Words adapted from Luke xvii, 10-11.

A generation before Bach one of the most notable Lutheran composers was Heinrich Schutz, from whom Bach received much inspiration. Many of the works of Schutz have been made available in English editions during these last years, and Lutherans who strive to revive the best in their own musical heritage look to Schutz for his excellent anthems. His imagination was captured by the dramatic implications of this famous parable, and this sedate but vigorous music brings new impact to its great truths.

Soloists — Walter Cline, tenor; Leonard Krantz, baritone

THE ANNIVERSARY ADDRESS

THE REV. FRANKLIN CLARK FRY, D.D., LL.D., Litt.D.
The President of the United Lutheran Church in America

THE ANTHEM

“Long Hast Thou Stood O Church of God”.....Lindeman-Davis

Long hast thou stood, O church of God,
Long 'mid the tempests assailing;
Founded secure on timeless rock
Rises thy light never failing,
Shining that all may understand
What has been wrought by God's command,
O'er night and chaos prevailing.

“Let there be light!” and light was there,
Clear as the Word that declared it;
Healing and peace to all it gave,
Who in humility shared it.
Ah, they were faithful, they who heard:
Steadfast their trust in God's great Word;
Steadfast the truth that prepared it.

“Let there be light!” the Word shines forth!
Lo, where the new morning whitens;
O Church of God, with book unsealed,
How its page beacons and brightens!
Living stones we, each in his place,
May be worthy such a grace,
While truth the wide earth enlightens!

Based on the Danish of Grundtvig.

Most Lutherans are familiar with the German Chorale. Some strong tunes have come to us from Scandinavian sources as well. Ludwig Lindeman lived in Norway from 1812 to 1887, and he wrote many chorales that have had wide use among the Scandinavian branches of the Lutheran Church.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE BENEDICTION

THE CHORAL RESPONSE “The Lord Bless You and Keep You”.....Lutkin

THE HYMN “Rise, Ye Children of Salvation.....Neander

1.

Rise, ye children of salvation,
All who cleave to Christ the Head!
Wake, arise, O mighty nation,
Ere the foe on Zion tread:
He draws nigh, and would defy
All the hosts of God Most High.

2.

Saints and heroes, long before us,
Firmly on this ground have stood;
See their banner waving o'er us,
Conquerors through the Saviour's
Blood!
Ground we hold, whereon of old
Fought the faithful and the bold.

3.

Fighting, we shall be victorious
By the Blood of Christ our Lord;
On our foreheads, bright and glorious,
Shines the witness of His Word;
Spear and shield on battlefield,
His great Name; we cannot yield.

4.

When His servants stand before Him,
Each receiving his reward,—
When His saints in light adore Him,
Giving glory to the Lord,—
“Victory!” our song shall be,
Like the thunder of the sea.

Amen.

(Descant on verses 2 and 4)

Those who desire to share in an offering may do so at the conclusion of the Service this evening. Ushers will receive the offering at the doors of the auditorium. The offering received will be dedicated to the purposes of the Lutheran Extension Society of Buffalo, in order that the continuing work of the establishment of the Lutheran Church in New York may be maintained.

PARTICIPATING IN THE SERVICE

The Rev. Franklin Clark Fry, D.D., LL.D., Litt.D., President, The United Lutheran Church in America

The Rev. Frederick R. Knubel, D.D., LL.D., President, The United Lutheran Synod of New York

The Rev. Harry C. Kreider, Ph.D., Historian, United Lutheran Synod of New York

The Rev. Chalmers C. Frontz, D.D., Pastor of First Lutheran Church, Albany, which congregation was founded by Pastor Gutwasser

The Rev. Ralph W. Loew, D.D., Chairman, Three Hundredth Anniversary Committee

Three Hundred Members of the Luther Leagues of the Niagara Frontier

The Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, Mr. Joseph Wincenc, Guest Conductor

The United Lutheran Chorus, Dr. Roberta Bitgood, Organist-Director, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Conductor

Miss Edna L. Springborn, Organist-Director, Grace Lutheran Church, Organist for Chorus

Mr. Frederick Wunsch, Organist-Director, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Eggertsville, Organist for Hymns

THE UNITED LUTHERAN CHORUS

Atonement (Addison Buesch), Christ (William Breach), Concordia (Clyde Kline), First Redeemer (Mrs. William J. Voss), Grace (Edna L. Springborn), Holy Trinity (Roberta Bitgood), Parkside (Roy Clare), Redeemer (Louise Sleep), Resurrection (Milton Ast, Walter Meissner), St. John's (Frederick Wunsch), Tabor (Margaret Boltz), all of Buffalo; St. John's of Lancaster (Cleta Schermerhorn), St. Paul's of Eggertsville (Frederick Wunsch), and First of Blasdell (Walter Horn)—also members of the former United Lutheran Chorus which was directed by Miss Edna L. Springborn.

COMMITTEE OF BUFFALO LUTHERAN PASTORAL ASSOCIATION

The Rev. Donald R. Pichaske, Chairman
Rev. Edward W. Goetz, Finance Committee
Rev. Herbert A. Bosch, Publicity Committee
Rev. Arthur H. Schmoyer, D.D., Staging
Mr. Andrew W. Stohrer, Ushers
Mr. Willard H. Herbold, Programs

THE 300TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE OF THE UNITED LUTHERAN SYNOD OF NEW YORK

The Rev. Ralph W. Loew, D.D., Chairman.
The Rev. Ernest C. French, Mr. Ellsworth Miller, The Rev. William C. J. Weidt, The Rev. Laroy S. Deitrich, The Rev. Edmund A. Bosch, The Rev. Harry J. Kreider, Ph.D., The Rev. Morris C. Skinner, D.D., Mr. Frank Egner and The Rev. Carl J. Sutter.

This Service is broadcast over Station WEBR from 8:30 to 9:00 P.M. through the courtesy and kindness of the Station.

FOR THE LOVE OF THEIR CHURCH

The festival tonight calls to vivid remembrance the heroic beginnings of the Lutheran Church in New York State. That was just 300 years ago, when the State was the Dutch colony of New Netherland.

A little band of our Lutheran brethren, living principally in Manhattan and Albany, wanted very much to have a church of their own. But the law said that only the Reformed Church was allowed. The colonial officials stood solidly for the law and against the Lutherans.

Our Lutheran brethren, however, were made of stern stuff, and were determined to have their church. So, sometime in the summer of 1649, they organized themselves secretly as the Lutheran Congregation in New Netherland. Then they wrote a petition to the Lutheran Church in Amsterdam, Holland, for a pastor

Since no pastor could be found, some of the Lutheran laymen in both Manhattan and Albany started services in the homes of members. They did not get far. The services were suppressed in both towns, and in Albany two of the leaders were arrested and fined. A stringent law was passed stating that anyone caught attending further services was to be fined \$60, and anyone caught conducting a service was to be fined the exorbitant sum of \$240.

Then a young Lutheran pastor was found in Holland who was willing to risk coming to the colony. His name was Johannes Ernestus Gutwasser. He had high hopes, but all he got was two years of bitter persecution. When he set foot in Manhattan, on July 6, 1667, he was summoned before the colonial officials, ordered to get rid of any idea of holding services or administering the sacraments, and told to leave the colony.

Gutwasser, just as determined as his people, had no intention of returning to Holland. So he "disappeared" to Long Island, to the home of one of his members. He conducted a few services in the neighborhood, "in isolated hiding places". But he was constantly hounded by the officials, and some of his members were arrested for attending the services. At last he himself was arrested, during a severe illness, and forced to return to Holland.

Five years later the English conquered New Netherland, and gave religious freedom to all. The Lutherans were overjoyed. But their trials were by no means over. To their consternation, they could find no pastor who was willing to come. Many were the excuses — the ocean trip was perilous, the job was tough, the pay was small. No spiritual sons of Paul appeared to be around to answer the plea to "come over and help us"

Finally, after waiting four years, a pastor came. Go back in imagination and witness the joy of these long-suffering brethren as they assembled in the home of a member on Sunday, February 21, 1669, for a service in peace and quietness under a pastor of their own. Even better, join them three Sundays later, on March 14, the third Sunday in Lent, when there gathered "forty-five persons at the Lord's table" — the first Lutheran communion service in New York that we know of.

What heroic figures are these brethren of three centuries ago! Think of it — organizing their congregation and then forced to wait twenty years before they might have their own communion service. It is amazing that anyone at all was left to come to that communion. God help us to "follow in their train!"

—Written by Dr. Harry C. Kreider.